

November 4, 2008

Dear Board of Supervisors:

You have an important job today in appointing the interim Placer County Assessor. Together, we share a commitment to make the best choice for the citizens of Placer County. In bringing my application forward for your consideration and appointment, we can ensure that the Assessor Department will run efficiently, treat taxpayers equitably and responsively, while serving as one of the front-line revenue sources to fund key government services. All in the face of ongoing economic challenges and ever changing statutory requirements. As Assistant Assessor, I have proven executive level experience leading a staff of 85 in producing an annual assessment roll in excess of \$60 Billion. But perhaps most importantly, I have the leadership not only to provide office continuity but to move the department forward into the future with new thoughts and ideas.

As Assistant Assessor, I have been proud of our office accomplishments over the past several years. The Placer County Assessor Department has developed assessment and appraisal programs that are recognized statewide for their efficiency and quality. This week, at the request of numerous county Assessors, we will demonstrate three of our new assessment programs to a state-wide group meeting in Sacramento. It has been my pleasure to provide operational leadership to the talented staff and managers who are able to make such powerful ideas a reality, with the ultimate goal of serving Placer County taxpayers.

As Assessor, I will not be content to rest on previous accomplishments, but rather to lead the department forward in new directions and to seek positive opportunities for success. My initial goal will be to improve our service to Placer County taxpayers given the increased complexity and number of their questions in our currently challenging economic environment. It is a project that I look forward to addressing through input from constituents and Assessor staff. As a second goal, I will focus on the lifeblood of our organization, the staff, many of whom are new to the office within the last five years. The complexity of the assessment business requires enhanced training and career development to ensure that we are able to retain motivated staff and develop future leaders. Of equal importance, as Assessor, I will commit to strengthening existing relationships and forging new cooperative bonds with our fellow public service departments and agencies, serving Placer County citizens. I look forward to the opportunity to make these goals a reality.

Today, I seek your vote for my appointment to Placer County Assessor. Your vote for me is a vote to retain the continuity and accomplishments of the past, but also a vote that supports a confident vision of leadership for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristen Spears